



Media Release

Mount Isa Safe Community

Saturday 21 February 2009

MOUNT ISA – WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION SAFE COMMUNITY

Mount Isa is the first Australian mining city to be designated a World Health Organisation (WHO) safe community.

A designation ceremony was held at the Mount Isa Civic Centre today, and officiated by Dr Carolyn Coggan, the Director of the Safe Communities Foundation of New Zealand (SCFNZ) – a Certifying Centre of the WHO Safe Communities Program.

The WHO Safe Communities Program is focused on implementing an ongoing program of injury control, covering the whole community including people in all age groups, all environments and situations.

Mount Isa Safe Community Advisory Team (MISCAT) spokesperson Lynette Drew said the designation was a fantastic globally-recognised achievement for Mount Isa as it celebrates 85 years of commerce and community in the region.

“It’s a shining example of what can be achieved when members of the community come together with a common purpose,” Ms Drew said.

“This honour is the culmination of countless hours of effort by a number of community groups and organisations,” she said.

“After six years of making Mount Isa an even safer community, MISCAT applied to the WHO for assessment in 2008, and following a site visit last August delegates from the Safe Communities Foundation recommended Mount Isa be designated a ‘safe community’.

Community groups involved in the application process were involved in various partnerships to address:

- Childhood Injury
- Substance Misuse
- Family Violence
- Physical Activity
- Road Safety
- Seniors’ Safety, and
- Living with Lead

Some of the partner organisations include:

- Queensland Ambulance Service

- Queensland Fire & Rescue Service
- Queensland Police Service
- Queensland Health
- Mount Isa Community Development Association
- Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit
- Communities for Children

Other contributing organisations included:

- Mount Isa City Council
- Xstrata Mount Isa Mines
- James Cook University.

Mount Isa is the third Queensland city to be honoured, following the designation of Mackay and Townsville. Cairns will become the fourth successful Queensland city, and will be designated before the end of this year.

“We have had encouragement and support from other safe communities from around the world, and are pleased to join Mackay and Townsville as Queensland safe communities. Together we are making Queensland not only a great state, but a safe state,” Ms Drew said.

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